

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00
FRB-03 OMB-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 DODE-00 AID-05
IGA-02 /069 W
-----070109 240634Z /21
R 240353Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3556

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 13791

DEPT PLEASE PASS USDA/FAS WASHDC

FOR: GRAIN AND FEED DIV.

FROM: AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: THAI RICE SITUATION

TOFAS 81

1. BOTTOM LINE OF ALL DISCUSSIONS WITH TRADE AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IS THAT A CLEAR PICTURE OF RICE AVAILABILITY HAS NOT BEEN ARRIVED AT AND MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL LATE AUGUST. THROUGH JUNE 19, 1.4 MILLION TONS OF RICE HAD BEEN EXPORTED. AN ADDITIONAL 400,000 TONS IS SAID TO BE IN BANGKOK AWAITING EXPORT. TOTAL EXPORTS IN 1977 CY ARE GUESTIMATED AS HIGH AS 2.2 MILLION TONS, BUT CONCERSUS IS THAT 2 MILLION TONS IS LIKELY MAXIMUM ATTAINABLE. EVEN THIS LEVEL IS LIKELY TO DRAW DOWN ENDING STOCKS TO AN EXTREMELY LOW LEVEL.

2. PRICES AT THE FARM LEVEL HAVE BEGUN TO INCREASE, SIGNALING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A TIGHTENING OF AVAILABILITY. THE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE NAUTRE OF ANY RETAIL RICE PRICE INCREASE WILL LIKELY CAUSE ACTION TO SLOW EXPORT FLOW IN UPCOMING WEEKS UNTIL AVAILABILITY OF RICE IS MORE CERTAIN.

3. PARTIAL ANSWER FOR INCREASED EXPORT AVAILABILITY IS:
(A) ESTIMATES OF 250,000 TO 300,000 TONS NO LONGER MOVING

IN ILLICIT BORDER TRADE AND (B) LARGER SHIPMENTS OF LOWER
GRADE RICE NORMALLY FID TO LIVESTOCK.

4. IMPRESSION FROM CONTACTS IS THAT WHILE EXPORTS OF 2
MILLION TONS WOULD BE DESIRED, A LEVEL NEARER 1.8 MILLION
TONS IS MORE LIKELY. THIS LEVEL WOULD ABOUT COVER THE
OUTSTANDING ASEAN CONTRACTS. AS IN THE PAST, THAILAND
MAY ASK IMPORTER COUNTRIES TO EXTEND DELIVERY PERIODS
UNTIL EARLY 1977. IF THIS CAN BE DONE, THE ONLY REAL
PRESSURE TO INCREASE EXPORTS ABOVE 1.8 MILLION TONS
WOULD BE A DESIRE TO SURPASS THE 1976 EXPORT LEVEL OF
1.87 MILLION TONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: RICE, EXPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770623/aaaaauck.tel
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